

NEWS RELEASE

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Ministry of Education

SEISMIC UPGRADES MAKE SEAVIEW COMMUNITY SCHOOL SAFER

COQUITLAM – The Province has approved \$4 million in seismic upgrades to Seaview community school in Port Moody, Port Moody-Westwood MLA Iain Black announced today.

“Safety is a top priority for our government,” said Black. “With these improvements, Seaview community school will meet current earthquake standards and allow students and staff to learn, teach and achieve their goals in a safe environment.”

The upgrades will include modifications to the existing roof deck to improve its strength, improvement in wall connections, and reinforcement of the existing giant brick masonry walls of the school. In addition, some existing interior and exterior wood frame walls will be strengthened to create shear walls to connect the roof to the foundations. The construction is scheduled to take place over a 10-month period to be completed in spring 2008.

“We are pleased to learn the Coquitlam school district has received the go-ahead from the Ministry to proceed with the Seaview community school seismic project,” said Board Chair Melissa Hyndes. “These renovations will ensure the safety of students and staff, which is always of utmost concern.”

“The work on Seaview community school is part of government’s \$1.5-billion seismic program to make B.C. schools safe,” said Education Minister Shirley Bond. “No other government in the history of this province has invested so much in protecting the safety of our staff and students.”

Since 2001, the Province has invested \$46.5 million in the Coquitlam school district to complete eight capital projects including six additions, one replacement, and the construction of Heritage Woods secondary in 2004, a new school that has room for 1,200 students.

During the same period, the Province spent over \$1 billion to complete 26 new schools, 32 replacements, 140 additions and 22 renovations projects across British Columbia. By the end of 2008-09, the Province will have invested more than \$2.8 billion in school capital and maintenance projects.

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